

21CGH Newsletter

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[The 21CGH Science Management Group \(SMG\)](#)

Professor David Porteous
Professor Anna Dominiczak
Professor Stuart Ralston
Professor Andrew Morris

[GS Open Meeting](#)



Introduction

Welcome to Issue 1 of the Genetic Health in the 21st Century (21CGH) newsletter.

A key aim of this Strategic Research Development Grant is to establish a structured programme of networking and research planning. This will take the form of research meetings, workshops in research methodology and forward planning events.

Communication within the network will be supported by soon to be redesigned Generation Scotland website www.generationscotland.org.

It is hoped that this newsletter will also keep researchers informed of progress and encourage the flow of information.

Dr Shona Kerr
21CGH Project Manager



From left to right:
Wendy Marsden, Dr Rena Gertz,
Dr Gill Haddow

Nick Brain (below)



21CGH Staff Update

Three research appointments have been made as part of the "Ethical, Legal and Social Issues - Sharing the Knowledge & Engaging Citizens" objective.

Wendy Marsden started her PhD studentship at the University of Edinburgh in October 2003. The discourse of genetic databases is constructed from multiple discourses, including medicine, science, public health, Primary Care, law, ethics, technology, social science, the media and a wider public. The aim of Wendy's PhD is to contribute to the discourse of genetic databases, and to demonstrate how multiple discourses create the social and historical context of the Generation Scotland database.

Dr Renate Gertz took up her appointment as a Research Fellow for 21CGH at the end of February.

She is based in the AHRB Centre in the School of Law at Edinburgh University. Together with Dr Graeme Laurie, Rena will be working on the legal and ethical issues important to Generation Scotland. Aspects to be taken into consideration will include the problem of informed consent, ownership of the samples and data protection issues.

Dr Gill Haddow started her 21CGH Research Fellow appointment in May '04. Her main role is to undertake a process of consultation and dialogue with members of the public and scientists on their views about Generation Scotland. She is based at the University of Edinburgh, INNOGEN, in Dr Sarah Cunningham-Burley's research group. Gill says she will be most interested in hearing

what you have to say - so please feel free to drop her a line.

Nick Brain is 21CGH Research Fellow in Prof Anna Dominiczak's team at the University of Glasgow, where his research is focused on cardiovascular disease. The group is mapping quantitative traits initially to genomic regions and ultimately to causative genes in the human populations under study. Nick is presently developing methods for using linkage disequilibrium data to select informative panels of single nucleotide polymorphisms for genetic fine mapping.

Generation Scotland Open Meeting

A meeting entitled "Shaping Generation Scotland" took place in Dundee's Health Informatics Centre on 28 April.

More than 30 representatives from the Universities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Dundee together with delegates from the ISD, the Scottish Spoke of UK Biobank and the Scottish School of Primary Care met to plan and

debate the future of Generation Scotland. Issues on health & wealth creation, IP/technology transfer, ethics, social and legal aspects, pharmacogenetics and clinical trials were on the Agenda. The Panel Discussion was expertly chaired by Prof Stephen Smith, Executive Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Glasgow University.

It was mutually agreed that working as partners in close collaboration will be of benefit to genetic research in Scotland as a whole.

A meeting summary will appear on the Generation Scotland website in due course.

Dr Lana Sobyanina
GS Office